

Remarks

Objection to Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to show a feature found in claims 5 and 14. New figure 9 is being submitted herewith to comply with the Examiner's objection. No new matter has been added. This embodiment was described in the specification on page 9, lines 1-5 and in claims 5 and 14. the specification has also been amended to reference the new figure.

The Examiner objected to Figures 7 and 8 because they include symbols ϕ and ϕ_0 not mentioned in the specification. The relevant paragraph of the specification has been amended above to include the appropriate mention of these symbols.

The Examiner objected to Figure 4 for using "BY" instead of "By" on the axis label. The correction has been made in the replacement sheet submitted herewith.

Various erroneous reference numbers mentioned by the Examiner in figures 7 and 8 have been corrected as suggested in the office action. The Examiner diligence in spotting these errors is appreciated.

Replacement sheets for figures 4, 7 and 8 are being submitted herewith.

Abstract

The Examiner objected to the Abstract because it was too long. A shortened Abstract is being submitted herewith.

Specification

The erroneous reference number on line 3, page 7 noted by the Examiner has been corrected in the amendment to the specification above.

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The Examiner mentioned an error on line 1, page 15 which is the title on the Abstract page. This appears to be a scanning error and does not appear on the applicants' original documents. A new Abstract has been submitted herewith with no title. Applicants believe that this should cure this problem.

Section 112 Rejection

The lack of antecedent basis for "the air-bearing surface" noted by the Examiner in claim 2 has been corrected by the amendment to claim 1.

Section 102 Rejections

The Examiner noted that claims 5, 13 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5. Applicants believe that these amendments overcome the section 102 rejections of claim 1 and the claims that depend from claim 1.

Independent claim 9 was rejected under section 102(a) and/or 102(e) based on Shukh 2003/0117749. Applicants respectfully disagree. The Examiner interpreted Shukh's element 234 in figure 6 as a floating-trailing shield, but this element is actually a shield for the read sensor 232. (See paragraph 0033.) Thus, Shukh's element 234 corresponds to the applicants' S2. Therefore, Shukh's teaching does not include a floating-trailing shield as applicants claim. It follows that Shukh's layer of electrically conductive material 240 does not correspond the applicants' claimed layer of electrically conductive metal to separate the floating-trailing shield from the main pole piece.

Therefore, Shukh's teaching fails to include a floating-trailing shield or an electrically conductive layer separating the floating-trailing shield from the main pole piece as applicants claim in claim 9.

Independent claim 15 has been cancelled.

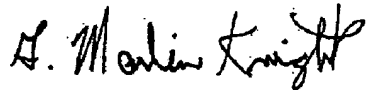
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Applicants, therefore, believe that all of the claims in application are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Marlin Knight". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

G. Marlin Knight (Reg. Number 33,409)

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